GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:871
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2011
DISEASES CAUSED BY AIR POLLUTION
Azad Shri Kirti (Jha)

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of various reports including Delhi Statistical Handbook which states high prevalence of respiratory diseases and deaths therefrom due to air pollution in Delhi and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the estimated number of people suffering from diseases due to exposure to polluted air and deaths occurred therefrom in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and

(d) the corrective measures taken/proposed by the Government in this regard including ensuring adequate medical facilities for the patients suffering from diseases caused by air pollution?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a) to (c): According to some studies, health effects such as manifestation of respiratory and cardiovascular ailments etc. could be associated with air pollution. These diseases could be due to occupational hazards, allergic conditions or in part due to air pollution. However, it is not possible to ascertain precisely the proportion of these diseases caused by air pollution alone, based on available studies.

(d): Steps taken by Government to control environmental pollution include formulation of a comprehensive policy for abatement of pollution, supply of improved auto-fuel, tightening of vehicular and industrial emission norms, mandatory environmental clearance for specified industries, management of municipal, hazardous and bio-medical wastes, promotion of cleaner technologies, strengthening the network of air quality monitoring stations, assessment of pollution load, source apportionment studies, preparation and implementation of action plans for major cities and critically polluted areas, public awareness, etc. All efforts are made by the Government to ensure providing adequate medical facilities/care for the patients suffering from diseases.